REMARKS

This Amendment modifies the Request for Continued Examination (RCE) filed herewith. With this Amendment, claim 18 has been cancelled without prejudice, and claims 1-3, 5-6, 8-11, and 16-17 have been amended to clarify Applicant's invention.

Claims 1-17 and 19-20, therefore, remain pending in the application and are presented for reconsideration and allowance.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-10 and 16-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takaira et al. U.S. Patent 6,750,982. Claims 11-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takaira et al. in view of Kageyama et al. U.S. Patent 6,567,180.

With this Amendment, independent claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the method is a method of distributing print job data from an e-mail enabled printer with the print job data comprising data to be printed by the e-mail enabled printer, and clarify that the method includes "retrieving said print job data from a memory of said e-mail enabled printer; attaching said print job data to an e-mail; sending said e-mail and said print job data to an e-mail enabled device; and storing said print job data in a job retention memory of said e-mail enabled device."

With this Amendment, independent claim 11 has been amended to clarify that the method includes storing one or more print jobs in a memory of an e-mail enabled printer, with "each of said print jobs comprising data to be printed by the e-mail enabled printer," attaching the data of the selected at least one print job to the e-mail, and sending the e-mail for distributing the data of the selected at least one print job.

With this Amendment, independent claim 16 has been amended to clarify that the system is a system for distributing a print job, and clarify that the e-mail enabled printer comprises "at least one microprocessor for operating said e-mail enabled printer, including translating data of said print job into an image format for printing by said e-mail enabled printer and attaching said data of said print job to an e-mail; a display device for displaying said print job; and a job retention memory for storing said data of said print job for distribution."

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Amendment
Applicant: Travis J. Parry
Serial No.: 09/989,340
Filed: November 20, 2001
Docket No.: 10012807-1
Title: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR DISTRIBUTING PRINT JOB (as amended)

    With respect to the Takaira et al. and Kageyama et al. patents, Applicant submits that neither of these patents, individually or in combination, teach or suggest a method of distributing print job data from an e-mail enabled printer as claimed in independent claim 1, a method of distributing a print job as claimed in independent claim 11, nor a system for distributing a print job as claimed in independent claim 16.

    For example, the Takaira et al. patent discloses a printer including an image storing unit 8 that stores the image data sent from the PCs 4, a printer unit 10 that prints the image data, and a control unit 12 that collectively controls the operation of the printer 2, wherein the control unit 12 receives the image data outputted from the PCs 4 to cause the printer unit 10 to print the received image data (col. 3, lines 5-19; Fig. 2). In addition, the Takaira et al. patent has imparted the function of transmitting electronic mail to the printer such that "data for using the printer" and "the printer driver for the printer" are distributed to each of the PCs 4A, 4B, and 4C through electronic mail (col. 2, line 66 - col. 3, line 4). The "data for using the printer" is defined in the Takaira et al. patent to be data such as 'method of setting the printer' and 'location at which the printer is placed' (col. 3, lines 30-34).

    Neither the "data for using the printer" nor "the printer driver for the printer" of the Takaira et al. patent, however, represent data to be printed or translated into a format to be printed by the printer 2. Rather, the "image data" of the Takaira et al. patent is the data that is printed by the printer 2. The image data, however, is <u>not</u> the data that is attached to the electronic mail message. In contrast, with the present invention, the data that is attached to the e-mail is data that is to be printed or translated into a format to be printed by the e-mail enabled printer. The Takaira et al. patent, therefore, does <u>not</u> teach or suggest a method of distributing print job data from an e-mail enabled printer as claimed in independent claim 1, a method of distributing a print job as claimed in independent claim 11, nor a system for distributing a print job as claimed in independent claim 16.

    In view of the above, Applicant submits that independent claims 1, 11, and 16 are each patentably distinct from the Takaira et al. and Kageyama et al. patents and, therefore, are each in a condition for allowance. Furthermore, as dependent claims 2-10 further define patentably distinct claim 1, dependent claims 12-15 further define patentably distinct claim 11, and dependent claims 17, 19, and 20 further define patentably distinct claim 16, Applicant submits that these dependent claims are also in a condition for allowance. Applicant,

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Amendment
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therefore, respectfully requests that the rejections of claims 1-10 and 16-20 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) and claims 11-15 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) be reconsidered and withdrawn, and that claims 1-17 and 19-20 be allowed.

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Amendment
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CONCLUSION

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that pending claims 1-17 and 19-20 are all in a condition for allowance and requests reconsideration of the application and allowance of all pending claims.

Any inquiry regarding this Amendment should be directed to either Nathan Rieth at Telephone No. (208) 396-5287, Facsimile No. (208) 396-3958 or Scott A. Lund at Telephone No. (612) 573-2006, Facsimile No. (612) 573-2005. In addition, all correspondence should continue to be directed to the following address:

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this paper or papers, as described herein, are being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Fax No. (571) 273-8300 on this 18TH day of April, 2006.

By
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